

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1387

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA

SUBJ: PRIMIN MIKI DISCUSSES U.S. TRIP AND OTHER THEMES

REF: TOKYO 8978

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY. PRIMIN MIKI AT JULY 5 PRESS CONFERENCE COVERED SEVERAL CURRENT DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL THEMES, INCLUDING HIS PENDING U.S. TRIP. NOTING DRASTIC CHANGES SINCE LAST U.S.-JAPAN SUMMIT, HE LOOKED FORWARD TO FRANK WASHINGTON TALKS IN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL TRUST

AND CONFIDENCE. HIS VIEWS ON IMPORTANCE OF KOREA TO JAPAN AND CHINA-RELATED HEGEMONY ISSUE WERE ALSO FURTHER ELABORATED. DOMESTICALLY, HE RULED OUT CABINET OR PARTY CHANGES FOR NOW. END SUMMARY.

1. AT IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 5 IN WAKE OF TURBULENT DIET SESSION CLOSE (REFTTEL), PRIMIN MIKI ADDRESSED QUESTIONS ON HIS UP-COMING U.S. TRIP, KOREA, CHINA, AND DOMESTIC POLITICS. HE DESCRIBED
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HIS U.S. VISIT AS VERY IMPROTANT BECAUSE IT WILL BE HIS FIRST

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO PRESSING BILATERAL ISSUES, MIKI NOTED THAT SINCE LAST U.S.-JAPAN SUMMIT, THERE HAD BEEN DRASTIC CHANGES IN ASIAN SITUATION AND INCREASED NEED FOR COOPERATION AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND BETWEEN PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES. MIKI SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE FRANK WASHINGTON TALKS ABOUT HOW TO COPE WITH THESE MATTERS IN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE. HIS PURPOSE, MIKI SAID, WAS TO BECOME WELL ACQUAINTED WITH PRESIDENT AND WORK TOWARD A U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP WHICH BETTER CONTRIBUTES TO WELFARE OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND WORLD.

2. ON KOREA, MIKI SAID THAT ANYONE LOOKING AT SITUATION COULD SEE DEEP SECURITY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA. THUS HE WAS SENDING FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA TO SEOUL FOR FRANK TALKS BEFORE THEIR SCHEDULED WASHINGTON VISIT. ANOTHER REASON FOR SENDING MIYAZAWA IS THAT HOLDING OF JAPAN-SOUTH KOREA MINISTERIAL TALKS WILL BE "DIFFICULT" BEFORE THE WASHINGTON VISIT. MIKI SAID HE HAD NO INTENTION OF CHANGING THE "KOREA CLAUSE" IN THE 1969 SATO-NIXON COMMUNIQUE. BUT, HE CONTINUED, IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF ISOLATING SOUTH KOREA AND PRESERVING ITS EXISTENCE, RATHER IT IS A MATTER OF THE SECURITY OF ENTIRE KOREAN PENINSULA. FOR EVEN WITHOUT (1969) COMMUNIQUE CLAUSE, ACTIONS ON KOREAN PENINSULA ARE OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE. AS FOR NORTH KOREA, MIKI SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO BUILD RELATIONS FREE OF MISUNDERSTANDING BY PROMOTING INDIVIDUAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

3. ON CHINA, MIKI POINTED OUT THAT, LOOKING AT HISTORY, FRIENDLY JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS HAVE BEEN ESSENTIAL TO ASIAN STABILITY. ON HEGEMONY ISSUE CURRENTLY STALLING CONCLUSION OF A PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP PACT, MIKI SAID THAT, IF ONE DEFINES HEGEMONY AS FORCEFUL IMPOSITION OF THE WILL OF ONE NATION ON ANOTHER, THEN CLEARLY HEGEMONY IS CONTRARY TO PRINCIPLES OF PEACE. IN UNDERSCORING THIS POINT AND HIS CONTENTION THAT PHRASE IS NOT AIMED AT ANY THIRD COUNTRY, MIKI NOTED ANTI-HEGEMONY-LIKE PHRASING-- ADMITTEDLY WITHOUT USE OF WORD "HEGEMONY"--IN SECRETARY'S RECENT JAPAN SPEECH AND IN U.S.-USSR JOINT COMMUNIQUE; MIKI QUOTED DIRECTLY FROM FORMER. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING IT NOT IMPORTANT WHERE IN TREATY TEXT CONCEPT APPEARS, WHAT MATTERS IS THAT BOTH SIDES UNDERSTAND WHAT IS MEANT. HE ADDED HE HAD NO PRESENT INTENTION OF SENDING SPECIAL ENVOY TO PEKING IN HOPE OF ACHIEVING

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BREAKTHROUGH ON HEGEMONY ISSUE.

4. COMMENTING ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION AND TURBULENT DIET CLOSE, MIKI ADMITTED NECESSITY FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITHIN RULING LDP. BUT HE LEFT NO DOUBT ABOUT HIS INTENTION TO PURSUE HIS POLICY OF DIALOGUE AND CONCILIATION WITH OPPOSITION PARTIES AND TO SEEK PASSAGE OF REMAINING BILLS--INCLUDING ANTI-MONOPOLY BILL--AT NEXT (EXTRAORDINARY) DIET SESSION. HE ALSO SAID FLATLY

HE DID NOT NOW INTEND TO SHUFFLE CABINET, MAKE CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP OF LDP, OR CALL GENERAL ELECTION. LATER JULY 5, CABINET MET WITH LDP LEADERSHIP AND CONCLUDED THAT PENDING "BUDGET RELATED ISSUES" SHOULD BE TAKEN UP AT AN EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION SOON. MAJOR LDP FACTIONS ALSO HELD GENERAL MEETING JULY 5: ALTHOUGH OHIRA AND TANAKA FACTIONS WERE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF MIKI, NAKASONE AND FUKUDA FACTIONS WERE SUPPORTIVE.

5. COMMENT. IN GENERAL, PRESS CONFERENCE REITERATED FOREIGN POLICY THEMES WHICH HAVE BEEN FLOATED IN PRESS DURING RECENT WEEKS, BUT IT ALSO PROVIDED MORE DETAILED EXPOSITION OF MIKI'S OWN THINKING. FOREIGN POLICY THEMES, HOWEVER, TOOK DEFINITE BACK SEAT TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONCERNS. MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE RELATES TO CURRENT LDP DISCONTENT. MEETINGS HELD JULY 5, HOWEVER, HAVE MADE REASONABLY CLEAR THAT FACTIONAL BALANCE OF POWER WHICH PRESENTLY MAINTAINS MIKI IN POWER WILL CONTINUE. SIGNIFICANTLY, FINANCE MINISTER OHIRA, WHO CONCEIVABLY MIGHT HAVE USED THIS OCCASION TO LEAVE CABINET, APPEARED ON SAME PLATFORM WITH MIKI AT JULY 6 LDP RALLY IN NAGOYA. EQUALLY SIGNIFICANTLY, AND DESPITE MIKI DISAVOWALS, NEARLY ALL LOWER HOUSE MEMBERS HAVE LEFT TOKYO AND ARE NOW IN HUSTLINGS IN WIDELY HELD EXPECTATION OF A GENERAL ELECTION IN DECEMBER, AN EXPECTATION FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA HAS CONFIRMED TO US.
HODGSON

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